

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A check valve for a diesel engine, comprising:
  - a pipe formed with an oil inlet and oil outlet;
  - a piston slidably installed in said pipe;
  - wherein a surface of said piston selectively contacts an opening of said oil outlet such that an area of said opening varies according to a position of said piston; and
  - a spring pressuring said piston toward said oil inlet for closing an oil passage connecting said oil inlet and oil outlet, wherein said spring is an asymmetric compression spring designed to render the compression length change of said spring to be relatively large when low oil pressure is applied and slight when high oil pressure is applied.
2. (Original): The valve as defined in claim 1, wherein said asymmetric compression spring is a spring getting smaller in diameter toward one direction.
3. (Original): The valve as defined in claim 1, wherein said asymmetric compression spring is a spring getting smaller in wire thickness toward one direction.
4. (Currently Amended): A check valve for a diesel engine, comprising:
  - a pipe formed with an oil inlet and oil outlet;
  - a piston slidably installed in said pipe;
  - wherein a surface of said piston selectively contacts an opening of said oil outlet such that an area of said opening varies according to a position of said piston; and
  - a spring pressuring said piston toward said oil inlet for closing an oil passage connecting said oil inlet and oil outlet, wherein the diameter of said spring decreases toward one end.